

**MCI**

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Corporation**

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**Leonard S. Sawicki**  
Director  
FCC Affairs

**ORIGINAL**

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

October 13, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 222  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 95-155 ✓  
NSD File No. L-98-95

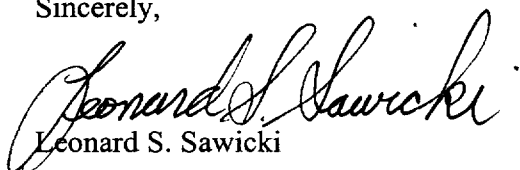
RECEIVED  
OCT 13 1998  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Salas:

Today, Mary DeLuca, Glenn Manishin and I met with Blaise Scinto, Marty Schwimmer, and Les Selzer of the Network Services Division of the Common Carrier Bureau. The purpose of the meeting was to review MCI WorldCom's position in this proceeding. The attached list was used during the meeting and enumerates the topics discussed. MCI WorldCom also distributed to the staff copies of letters dealing with the exhaust of 800 numbers. These letters, already on the record at the FCC, are attached to this letter.

Please add this letter and the enclosed copy to the record of this proceeding.

Sincerely,

  
Leonard S. Sawicki

Attachments

cc: Mr. Schwimmer  
Ms. Scinto  
Mr. Selzer

No. of Copies rec'd 0+3  
List A B C D E

## **Toll Free Neutrality**

- 1. The NANPA Third Report and Order already found that Toll Free is not neutral.**  
*(See, In the Matter of the North American Numbering Plan, Toll Free Service Access Codes, CC Docket No. 92-237 and CC Docket No. 95-155, FCC 97-372 (Released October 9, 1997))*
- 2. DSMI is not neutral because it is aligned with one industry segment.**
- 3. Toll Free Neutral requires the Commission to look at the structure of SMS/SMT- FCC needs to go beyond DSMI.**
- 4. The RBOCs will harm competitors given the chance.**
- 5. Private RFP process is not neutral.**
- 6. Unanswered questions**
- 7. No CLECs are members of the SMS Management Team (SMT)**



**MCI Telecommunications  
Corporation**

1801 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
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202 887 2601

Donald F. Evans  
Vice President  
Federal Regulatory Affairs

May 16, 1995

Ms. Kathleen Wallman  
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

POLICY AND PROGRAM  
DIV  
MAY 17  
COMMON CARRIER  
BUREAU

Dear Ms. Wallman:

I am writing to ask for the Commission's help in solving the significant problem of imminent exhaust of 800 numbers. Bellcore, in its role as the Database Services Management organization, has informed the industry that no new 800 numbers will be available for customers starting as early as October of this year. In response the industry has already agreed to the assignment of the 888 NPA as an added resource for toll-free services. The difficulty is that access providers now estimate that they will be unable to support 888 dialed calls until sometime between April and June, 1996. It should be alarming to the Commission that no new toll-free numbers will be available for a period of seven months or more at a time when the demand for these services is so great.

The industry is adopting some changes to the administration of 800 numbers that may extend their availability. These steps are being taken carefully to balance the need for conservation against the need for readily available numbers for the provision of toll-free service. It is believed that these steps will only extend the life of the 800 resource by a month or two.

MCI believes that the Commission must help in resolving this matter. In particular, there are at least five areas that the Commission should address: speed of the introduction of 888, portability, cost of alternative plans, CPE changes, and conflicts between 800 and 888 numbers. In order to effect an implementation in the public interest:

1. **Timing**

The Commission must ensure that the LECs take the necessary steps to have 888 routing via the 800 database no later than the exhaust date of 800. This issue must be made one of the highest priorities among LEC access providers.



**2. Portability**

The Commission must assure that 888 numbers are portable. The 888 resource is an extension of the 800 resource and the public deserves and should expect the same rules for both. Some parties have suggested a temporary 888-NXX plan as a way to address the potential gap in the availability of toll-free numbers. Although expedient for some access providers, it is not a reasonable solution. Customers seeking specific 888 numbers will be required to obtain their service from the provider who was assigned the particular NXX, not their chosen service provider. Competition will surely be distorted and customers unfairly affected. The Commission has previously ordered that 800 numbers be portable. An NXX plan would not comply with Commission policy.

**3. Costs of Alternative Plans**

Costs will increase if an interim NXX plan is used. An NXX plan would surely be one step in the way of portability. Why should 888 providers and users be forced to pay for a short-lived function that they do not even want.

**4. CPE Programming**

As the Commission has observed with respect to other numbering changes, CPE owners must be made aware of those changes in time to modify their systems. The Commission should issue a public notice to inform CPE vendors, owners and the public of the planned implementation of the 888 NPA as toll-free.

**5. Conflicts With 800 Numbers**

Many customers have made great investments in certain 800 numbers. The Commission recognized the importance of these investments in CC Docket No. 86-10. A new toll-free NPA will duplicate these numbers -- one with the current 800 prefix and a second with the 888 prefix. Customers with these numbers are concerned that confusion among dialers will create unnecessary costs from misdials and, in general, devalue the 800 numbers in which they have invested. This problem is difficult even if the uses of the 888 "clones" are in the hands of legitimate entities. There is even greater risk from scams and other sharp practices. Thus, many customers would like to duplicate their 800 numbers in the 888 prefix. The guidelines do not contain any provision for such duplication and MCI does not believe that the industry can resolve this in the forums. The Commission should begin a rulemaking as soon as possible to find a way to accommodate these customer concerns.

The Commission should act quickly to avoid unnecessary problems in the toll-free market.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald F. Evans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald F. Evans

cc: Ms. Kathleen Levitz  
Mr. James Keegan  
Mr. James Schlichting

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

IN REPLY REFER TO:

October 6, 1995

Mr. Michael Bennett  
Director, Federal Regulatory  
Southwestern Bell Corporation  
1401 Eye Street, N.W.  
Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Bennett:

On Wednesday, September 6, 1995, representatives from Southwestern Bell, NYNEX, Ameritech, BellSouth, US West, Pacific Telesis and Sprint-Long Distance met with me and members of my staff to ask the Bureau to reconsider the latest 800 number allocation plan.

As I am sure you recall, the industry originally asked the Common Carrier Bureau in June 1995 to take extraordinary measures to ensure that 800 numbers would remain available until such time when 888 toll free numbers would be available.

On June 13, 1995, following a week in which 113,000 800 numbers were taken from the database, we took measures to slow the rapid depletion of 800 numbers by directing Database Service Management, Inc (DSMI) to: (1) limit to two hundred (200) numbers per week the amount of 800 numbers a RespOrgs may assign to either working or reserved status; (2) reduce the aging process to four months; (3) reduce the amount of time numbers may remain in "reserve" status from a maximum of sixty days to a maximum of fifteen days (this was later changed to forty-five days); and (4) reduce the amount of 800 numbers a RespOrg can reserve at any one time to 3 percent of its existing 800 numbers (this was later removed because each RespOrg receives a fixed amount of 800 numbers each week). We believed that these measures would return the rate of consumption of the public resource represented by 800 numbers to the level upon which the industry premised its original schedule for introducing 888 toll free numbers.

On June 21, 1995, we refined the conservation plan at the request of the RespOrg community that had suggested that the plan be more reflective of the market conditions of 800 services. This second allocation plan modified our original plan by utilizing a "market share" approach whereby each RespOrg would receive a fixed percentage of the 28,000 800 numbers available for reservation each week. That fixed percentage was based on data concerning 800 numbers as of July 1994. Each RespOrg received a minimum of twenty-five (25) 800 numbers each week and a share of the remaining 24,550 numbers that equals the product of 24,550 and the percentage of all 800 numbers in working, assigned, and reserved on August 1, 1994 held by that RespOrg on August 1, 1994. In addition, to demonstrate compliance with the plan, RespOrgs were required to provide DSMI with information

Mr. Michael Bennett  
Page 2.

regarding the status of numbers each week (e.g., whether the numbers were left in reserved, transferred to working or not used). Specifically, the nine RespOrgs with the largest amount of combined working, assigned and reserved 800 numbers were required to include with these reports a letter executed by an official within the RespOrg's organization with overall responsibility for preparation of the information certifying that the data submitted was accurate.

To meet the industry's needs quickly, we proceeded with this market share allocation plan even though we had insufficient data to examine the dynamics of the 800 market. We stated that we would reexamine the plan once we were able to obtain and analyze RespOrg data for entire calendar year 1994.

In our ongoing effort to work with the industry to refine our 800 conservation program, on August 17, 1995, we adopted the current conservation plan. This plan is the most comprehensive plan thus far and attempts to capture the dynamics of the 800 service market. The plan is designed to account for the competitive trends in the industry before the market reacted to the threat of 800 number exhaust. We also accounted for the relative size (i.e., market share) of each RespOrg at a certain point in time. In the current plan, RespOrgs are divided into two pools: those that came into existence sometime in 1994 or 1995 ("new" RespOrgs) and those already in existence prior to December 1993 ("established" RespOrgs).

In our current plan, the total weekly allocation was increased to 29,000 800 numbers. Fifteen hundred numbers were set aside for Canadian RespOrgs following a request from Industry Canada and 1,200 numbers were set aside for the new RespOrgs. Under the plan, each new RespOrg receives 20 numbers plus a share of the remaining numbers based on its relative change in working numbers as compared to the new RespOrgs as a group in 1994. To divide the remaining numbers (26,300) among established RespOrgs, the plan used a formula based on a weighted factor of both their market share in December 1993 and their change in their working numbers for the year 1994.

In designing the current plan we determined not to reflect in the allocation plan any RespOrg activity after the industry announcement in January 1995 that 800 numbers likely would become exhausted before the 888 numbers were available. We believe the announcement of a potential gap in availability of toll free numbers had profound effects on the demand for 800 numbers as the news sunk in in the industry, as illustrated by the fact that over 113,000 were consumed the week before the initial conservation plan became effective. We believe that this large increase in the consumption rate of 800 numbers can be explained by an increase in the RespOrgs', 800 Service Providers', and 800 subscribers' demand for 800 numbers in an attempt to obtain, each for itself, as many 800 numbers as possible before total exhaustion. This demonstrates a truism about every resource that is discovered to be scarce: demand tends to outstrip available supply. The only way to prevent exhaust was to control consumption by imposing a conservation plan. The only way to ensure that the plan would succeed was to suppress consumption below the previous rate of demand. Thus, it is not

Mr. Michael Bennett  
Page 3.

surprising that under any conservation plan many RespOrgs would exhaust their weekly allocation, and that is exactly what has happened -- not just to SBC, but to almost every large RespOrg, including most of the other BOCs and the major IXC's. In fact, even those RespOrgs who received an increase in allotment report that they are using up all their numbers.

The latest allocation plan was enacted to ensure: (1) that the effect on the RespOrg's relative market share would be impacted as little as possible and, (2) that the allotment would be used. We believe that this plan accomplishes that former goal by: (1) treating new RespOrgs separately from established RespOrgs; and (2) utilizing 1994 changes in individual RespOrgs' working numbers relative to the change in total working numbers. Thus, the recent plan does not allocate numbers based on the RespOrg's tenure, but takes into account trends in the 800 marketplace before the announcement of a potential gap accelerated 800 numbers consumption. The latest change in the allocation plan is driven by the need to develop a plan that would more closely match allocations to the underlying trends in the 800 market before the gap was announced.

In our meeting of September 6, 1995, you asked that we reexamine certain aspects of the current conservation plan. While you did not disagree with the fundamental concept of our new plan, you asked that we reexamine the effects of different weights and study periods so that the RespOrgs with exceptional growth in 1994 would not receive a significant increase in their weekly allocation at the expense of those RespOrgs with more moderate, albeit steady, growth during the year. Specifically, you asked that we consider changing the study period used to define the market share and growth factor so that it would begin in January 1994 and end in July 1994 instead of December 1994. You also asked that we change the weights to 0.5 for the market share component (instead of 0.35) and 0.5 for the change in working numbers component (instead of 0.65). Lastly, you asked that we examine the average minutes of use for each RespOrg over that same period and use that as a gauge of the efficient use of the 800 number resource. Below we respond to each of these suggestions.

Reducing the study period:

Based on our review of the behavior of the market through December 1994, we do not believe redefining the study period in the way you suggest is appropriate. Comparing industry growth rates for the two periods, the average growth in working numbers for the industry is 3.82 percent between January 1994 and July 1994 and 3.85 percent between July 1994 and December 1994. Thus, the data do not appear to support the allegation that the growth figures were biased by "spiky" growth by certain RespOrgs, or that RespOrgs began to hoard or warehouse numbers in the last five months of 1995. Having analyzed the data on 800 number consumption, we find that, while one major RespOrg's consumption of 800 numbers increased in the last five months of 1994, the trend in the industry as a whole did not show any significant change.



Mr. Michael Bennett  
Page 4.

Changing the weight to 0.5 for market share and 0.5 for growth:

The weights applied in the current allocation formula were determined based on the number of months in the period we examined in our study of market dynamics. There were a total of twenty months from May 1993, the first month of portability, to December 31, 1994, the last month of that study period. The market share weight was calculated to be 0.35 because seven months had past from May, 1993 to December 1, 1993 (the date when the market share was determined) or  $7/20$  (0.35). The 0.65 weight was calculated based on the number of months used for the growth period - December 1993 to December 1994 ( $13/20 = 0.65$ ). In this model, there is no mathematical basis for using 0.5 weights if the study period is not changed.

Examining the minutes of use for each RespOrg:

While measuring the intensity of usage of individual 800 numbers in order to form an aggregate measure for each RespOrg, as you suggested, may prove useful in developing long term number conservation policies, we believe that the costs associated with gathering the data outweigh the benefits of such an approach during the six-month remaining life of the current conservation. The large amount of data needed to complete such a study requires over 15,000 data points, which is over eight times the amount of data used to develop the current plan. We find the net benefits of such an effort to be very small for the following reasons: (1) the presence of resellers of 800 service make it difficult to measure actual usage of 800 numbers by individual RespOrgs and their customers; and (2) the cost of accumulating the data for such an effort would be prohibitive as the Bureau's limited resources would be diverted from long term toll free issues such as the just released Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and 888 implementation. Moreover, to the extent that certain 800 calls are relatively short in length (e.g., paging service calls), but may lead, nevertheless, to more intensive use of the public switched network, focusing on the length of 800 calls may overlook the benefits associated with this type of call.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking inquires about ways to define the efficient use of the toll free resource. We believe that this rulemaking is the appropriate vehicle to develop a record and to analyze issues dealing with efficient use of toll-free numbers. Using your recommendation as a criteria, before a public record is developed, would be a disservice to those RespOrgs that have developed new services based on the toll free resource.

\* \* \*

To date, the current plan has proven most successful in ensuring that weekly allocation of the 800 numbers is maximally available to consumers. The new plan has resulted in over 97 percent of all allotted domestic 800 numbers being consumed each week. This is an increase of over 4 percent compared to the previous plan. Thus, while some RespOrgs consuming their entire allocation under the previous plan saw a decrease in their allocation,

Mr. Michael Bennett  
Page 5.

the current plan has appropriately balanced concerns of total use of the weekly allocation with concerns of minimal impact on relative market shares of RespOrgs within the industry.

We will continue to monitor 800 number assignments and will consider raising the weekly allotment of 800 numbers when we are confident that such an increase will not result in the exhaustion of 800 numbers before 888 numbers are introduced. The most direct route to this result would be to accelerate the deployment of the 888 database. We appreciate SBC's efforts to do this and encourage you to redouble your efforts and to strive to do all you can to make this happen. The solution to the issue you raise is, in this sense, in your hands.

Meanwhile, we encourage and applaud carriers' efforts to find new ways to alleviate the problems associated with the imminent exhaust of 800 numbers. For instance, AT&T plans to introduce personal 800 numbers using PIN technology which will decrease its rate of 800 consumption for personal 800 number services. We hope that as a result, a significant quantity of 800 numbers will be returned to the database, becoming available for future assignment once AT&T deploys PIN technology. At that time, we could and would consider increasing the weekly allotment of 800 numbers. Additionally, we expect AT&T and other carriers to return properly aged disconnected 800 numbers to the spare pool for reassignment to other 800 customers.

After examining the information you have presented, we find that you have made several thoughtful observations. Nonetheless, we conclude that on balance, your concerns do not support yet another modification to the conservation plan. At present, the value to the industry and the public in terms of stability and certainty in staying the course with our current conservation plan outweigh any further interim solutions that would require everyone affected to adjust to a fourth version of the conservation plan, implementing yet another plan.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M.H. Wallman  
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau

MCI letter?

from J. C.

© Bell Atlantic

Bell Atlantic Network Services, Inc.  
1133 Twentieth Street, N.W.  
Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
202 392-6990

Marie T. Breslin  
Director  
FCC Relations

May 16, 1995

Ms. Kathleen Wallman  
Chief-Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: 800 Number Exhaust

Dear Ms. Wallman:

Attached is a draft options paper that examines short term measures for the Commission's consideration in addressing the impeding industry premature exhaust of the 800 access code.

As stated in the background section of the paper, the RBOCs are responsible for administering the 800 database but they have no authority to act independently of the industry and alter the 800 database guidelines or tariff provisions ordered by the FCC. If the Commission believes it is not in the public interest to allow the industry to continue current practices that are certain to exhaust the supply of 800 numbers, then Commission intervention is needed.

The position paper is a Bell Atlantic document. It is Bell Atlantic's understanding that at least four other RBOCs informally endorse the options defined in this paper. However, final consensus among all the RBOCs is not expected until later this week. Bell Atlantic, on behalf of the RBOCs, will notify the Commission as soon as consensus is reached.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

*Marie Breslin*

Attachment

cc: K. Levitz

--DRAFT--

## 800 DATABASE NUMBER EXHAUST

### BACKGROUND

The 800 NXX service was introduced in 1967 with 7.6 million available numbers. When the Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) implemented 800 number portability in May, 1993, as ordered by the FCC in CC Docket 86-10, approximately 3 million 800 numbers were still available in the national database.

The RBOCs are currently responsible for the joint management and administration of the 800 database. Administration responsibilities include contracting with hardware, software, and user support suppliers and oversight of the unaffiliated third-party manager that handles day to day operation of the database. The cost of providing this service is recovered via a joint RBOC interstate tariff and corresponding contracts with network providers that utilize the database information in their local networks to route 800 traffic.

The 800 database has a record for each 800 number in use that contains the information needed by the local exchange carriers to route the 800 calls. Records are populated by the 800 service providers and the majority of the database records do not contain subscriber information. Therefore, it is not possible to determine through the database whether or not a given 800 record actually has a subscriber associated with it. The identity of the subscriber is not necessary to route the 800 traffic and most service providers consider the subscriber-specific data confidential.

Since the 800 database service was first introduced, the industry has developed new applications (e.g., "free" 800 numbers as part of customer contracts and residential 800 service) and experienced growth in other applications (e.g., pagers). Most of these applications result in little or no usage of the 800 number as evidenced by the lack of any corresponding increase in carrier access or database query rates.

The industry-established, voluntary 800 database guidelines also permit significant quantities of 800 numbers to be held in reservation status, thereby rendering the numbers unavailable to other service providers. In April, 1994, an issue was introduced at the 800 Ad Hoc Committee meeting to change the 800 number reservation guidelines to address apparent number reservation abuses. The issue was not accepted by the Ad Hoc Committee. The RBOCs notified the NANPA of their concern regarding the potential for premature exhaust of available 800 numbers and requested that the NANPA raise this issue for resolution at the national Industry Numbering Committee (INC). The issue was introduced and accepted by the INC in August, 1994.

The INC reached agreement in January 1995 to designate the 888 code as the next national toll-free calling code and set aside a series of additional interchangeable NPAs for future code expansion. On March 31, 1995, the local exchange carriers published the 888 Implementation Plan to activate this code on a ubiquitous, nationwide basis effective April 1, 1996.

Based on the current weekly average usage of 59,000 numbers, up from 30,000 in January, 1995, the industry will exhaust the available supply of 800 numbers no later than October, 1995.

#### NEAR TERM OPTIONS

The following are near term options considered by the RBOCs Service Management Team as a means to curtail/control the rate at which 800 numbers are being consumed in an effort to delay 800 exhaust until the 888 code is activated. Any and all of these options can be implemented quickly by the Service Management System (SMS) administrator if ordered to do so by the FCC.

#### OPTION #1

Require that the SMS be temporarily modified to limit the number of 800 numbers that a RespOrg can secure on a weekly basis. This weekly RespOrg limitation would apply to both reserved and working status transactions.

Rationing 800 numbers is the most severe and controversial step that can be taken to eliminate 800 exhaust. However, the industry has repeatedly failed to reach consensus in various fora on the need for conservation and/or reclamation efforts to avoid or minimize 800 exhaust. Industry fora members determined that any limits, as recommended here, are not appropriate since they potentially deny new customers the ability to acquire an 800 number.

From a public policy perspective, the RBOCs believe the industry and consumers will be better served by the ability of all RespOrgs to secure some quantity of 800 numbers on a weekly basis during the 10 month transition period to the new 888 code than for many, if not most RespOrgs to have no numbers available for some period of time if 800 is exhausted. Lacking an order to ration 800 numbers among all service providers, only those carriers believed to be warehousing 800 numbers will be able to

continue marketing this service if the industry is permitted to exhaust the 800 database.

The Service Management Team estimates that a limit of 161 **numbers/week/RespOrg** is necessary based on the following information:

Available 800# as of 5/31/95 = 929,000  
(Includes new N11 codes)  
Weekly allocation 6/95 through 3/31/95 = 21,605

Current number of RespOrgs = 134

The Commission should **also prohibit RespOrgs from simply cloning themselves** in order to secure more numbers. Any individual or business entity can declare itself a RespOrg. If the FCC does not freeze the RespOrg base or otherwise prohibit cloning, existing RespOrgs will simply create new RespOrgs and claim entitlement to an allocation of 800 numbers.

#### OPTION #2

Order the SMS administrator to suspend/disconnect all Mechanized Generic Interface (MGI) access to the 800 SMS. The RBOCs were ordered by the FCC to offer MGI access as an option under the interstate 800 tariff.

Most service providers use manual on-line access to the SMS and perceive the MGI as conferring an enormous advantage to certain providers due to the large number of transactions these providers process against the database to locate and reserve numbers. The industry has been unable to reach consensus on a means of addressing and equalizing this data base access issue.

If option #1 above is adopted, the RBOCs see no need to impose a blanket restriction on the use of the MGI for the purpose of addressing the near term exhaust of the 800 database. See Option #3 below regarding other limitations on the MGI that may benefit the industry in the near term.

#### OPTION #3

At a minimum, the Commission should consider ordering the suspension of MGI access to the 800 SMS for several hours or days when additional 800 N11 codes, 211 through 811, are made available this summer.

Based on industry experience when the 800-555 code was opened early this year, MGI access can be used to exhaust a NXX in a matter of minutes. The additional N11 codes are expected to provide approximately 70,000 new 800 numbers. Based on current consumption rates, these codes will add a little more than one week to the exhaust timeline. If MGI access is allowed the codes will likely exhaust the day they are opened for reservation and non-MGI users will have no meaningful opportunity to reserve any of these codes for their actual or potential customers.

#### OPTION #4

The Commission should override the voluntary industry 800 guidelines and temporarily prohibit the reservation of 800 numbers for which the RespOrg does not have an actual customer.

The industry's only recently agreed to reduce the maximum allowed number of 800 reservations from 15% to 8% of an individual RespOrgs total base of working 800 numbers. As of 5/12/95, SMS usage data indicate that RespOrgs are no longer using the reservation option and are taking the 800 numbers directly to working status. For that reason, the RBOCs currently see no near term benefit from adopting this option.



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James L. Lewis  
Senior Vice President  
Regulatory Affairs

August 7, 1995

Casimir S. Skrzypczak  
Chairman  
Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions  
1200 G Street NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Skrzypczak:

On August 2, ATIS, on behalf of its Network Operations Forum, issued a news release congratulating itself for its efforts to move the date for implementation of the 888 toll free SAC (to supplement the 800 SAC) from April 1, 1996 to March 1, 1996.

I must say that this release is truly remarkable, reaching impressive heights ofchutzpah. First, despite obviously increasing levels of usage of 800 numbers over the last eighteen months, the LECs did nothing to speed up implementation of 888. It was only in the Spring of 1995 when the FCC became concerned about the possible exhaustion of 800 numbers, that anything happened at all. And following the FCC's action of June 13, in which it implemented an emergency number allocation scheme, and called on the industry to meet in an attempt to accelerate 888 deployment, the LECs consistently and repeatedly vowed that any acceleration was impossible, would jeopardize the network, would threaten service to customers, or would otherwise bring calamity down upon the public. Indeed, even at the most recent NOF meeting, three of the largest LECs (US West, Southwestern Bell, and GTE) did NOT agree to the modest date change now ballyhooed by ATIS. They only did so at an FCC-sponsored meeting, called by the Commission following this NOF meeting.



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Second, the release ignores the efforts of the interexchange carriers to bring pressure on the LEC members of the NOF to change the date. Despite the IXCs' continuing efforts to move the LEC dates, most of the month gain in the schedule was due to reductions in IXC test time. This means that IXCs increased their efforts, not the LEC members of ATIS.

Finally, the March date is not good enough. With only a slight increase in effort and focus, not to mention expenditure of funds, the LECs could easily implement 888 deployment. MCI believes that the RBOC-owned Bellcore could deliver its software at a schedule merely matching that of the commercial software and switch vendors. In addition, the LECs could compress their test time proportionate to the reductions made by the IXCs. Neither Bellcore nor the LECs have been willing to take either one of these steps.

The LECs and their representatives at ATIS need to focus on the needs of toll free customers. ATIS should work to that end, not spend time patting itself on the back for a job undone.

Sincerely,

*James L. Lewis*  
James. L. Lewis

cc: Kathleen Wallman, FCC

## DOCUMENT INDEX TERMS

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5. Law Firm Name (25) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Attorney/Author Name (last, first, mi) (25) Sewicki, Leonard
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### FOR FCC USE ONLY

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